

...the continuance of the war. I cannot bring myself to think that Count Nesselrode's circular is a manifest attempt to mean to be meddled a machine of double action, the effect of which would be to cause to be accepted as a thing some small assertions broken up by our diplomats to the consumers which hold out the hope of an early end to the war. I think that Count Nesselrode's object is to raise the temperature of the war, to make it more acute, to make it more difficult to be ended during the winter, and, until February has not a definitive answer on the 15 January, he will immediately leave the capital with the members of his embassy. The few days which will pass between this and the 15th of January would be available.

ly alluded to in expression of public opinion. It may, perhaps, and may God grant it! that our fears may be realized; but you might bet, to almost a dead certainty, that Count Esterhazy's mission will be a failure. M. Felix de Ponton, formerly Russian Envoy to the Court of Hanover, and before that Councillor of Embassy in Vienna during the congress of 1864, definitely refused to accept the post of Russian Envoy to the Austrian Privy Councillor M. Labiencki, just deceased. M. Labiencki was buried this morning in the Catholic church of St. Catherine. He was a man of great general character as an eminent diplomatist. His acquisitions will be necessary to throw light upon so difficult a situ-

Our financial position is far from improving, and the state of affairs is so great at the present moment that the *agio* is 10 sh over expected (4d); on each ruble of *agio* 10 sh is lost. Misery, locusts and the rigor of the season makes it doubly felt. This morning, at 7 o'clock, y. thermometer (Reaumur) marked 21 degrees below zero.

[Correspondence of London News, Dec. 30, 1855.]

not be denied that the power of the fanatical Christian party is greatly in the ascendant, in consequence of which the idea is more and more becoming confirmed in the minds of the credulous people that the Christian religion is endangered, and that the present war is actually one of religion—the Crescent against the Cross. It ought not to be overlooked that any restriction of the despotic power and attributes of the Calif, any humiliating conditions imposed—such as the cession of territory; payment of the war expenses; the demand of a material guarantee for the safety of the people in future, or disarming his fortresses—would be regarded as an insult to the sacredness of the area of the

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from their bounds, are incapacitated from service to the State. In the military activity in the arsenal, and great want of gold and silver money, are the two facts most prominent in the financial picture of the Empire.

In the Imperial Decree, dated the 26th ult., published in the *Berlin National Gazette*, we read:—

Notwithstanding the numerous issues of paper money, the want of gold and silver money is still very great, money, money, gold and silver—has become a leading cry, and it is affirmed that even in the Baltic provinces, where the Government has a monopoly of the sale of silver and paper money is to be seen from stretching to Kowno.

The Ministry of Finance has repeatedly sought to remedy this state of things; but all his endeavors are frustrated by the practice which the Russians have of hiding their roubles while war lasts. He has the honor to inform the House of State, that on the 7th of February, 1819, for the issue of copper coin to the amount of three millions of roubles.

On the 15th of March, 1855, the Government, however, 1855, has been sanctioned by the Emperor. A new issue of copper coinage, to the extent of three millions of roubles, is to be placed at the rate of three to two silver roubles to the pound.

In a letter from the same place, of a day's later date, we are informed that the Government have taken the necessary steps to be proceeded with according to the special measures has just been put into execution

men of the campaign in the North, with which we are acquainted. General Rudiger, commandant of the Baltic Fleet, is a man of the highest military education. "In consequence of the large number of officers required next year for the service of the ships of the Baltic Fleet, the Emperor has ordered that the Baltic Fleet's crews, naval officers, whose wounds have rendered them incapable of active service with the fleet, should be sent to serve in the coasting batteries and submarines."

AFFAIRS IN PERSIA.

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE OF HERAT—MUSK POLICY IN THE EAST.

We find the following in the *Ost Deutsche Post* of Vienna, of the 29th ult.

While the *Journal des St. Petersbourg* publishes an account of the grand reception given at the Persian Court to the Russian Ambassador, the *Post* of Vienna (the telegraph has informed us that the English Envoy at the Court of Persia had struck his flag. Another despatch from St. Petersburg has just arrived, announcing that the Persians have taken possession of the city of Herat. Some words of explanation are necessary in order to enable a judgment to be formed of this situation of things.

Herat is the capital of the Principality of that name, which is situate in the middle of the plateau of the Indian Archipelago, and is one of the most important and inhabitable. It is considered to be one of the best fortified towns in the East, and according to eastern historians, it is the seat of the most important commerce in the grand centre of commerce between Western Persia, the Indian Archipelago, and the East Indies, and the importance which it has acquired from the commerce between Russia and Persia. "Herat is the shell of the world, and Herat is its pearl." This point only acquires importance in the eyes of Europe from the fact that Russia and England, in the north of India, are in the process of rivalry, and Russia and England have both fully perceived

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There be peace when the interests of England have been more materially affected than they have been the commencement of the war. We think that this delicate question will yet play a great part in that relation to the balance of power in Europe.

TALE OF HORROR.

THE GREAT POISONING REVELATIONS IN ENGLAND

sixteen Persons Poisoned at Different Times, by a Surgeon—Among the Number was Lord George Bentinck, and the Poisoner a Wife and Mother—Immense Strands on the Life Insurance Companies—New Way of Cancelling Spitting Bets.

[From the London Times, Dec. 24.]
For those who regard murder as one of the fine arts, the sudden death of John Parsons Cook, at Rugeley, about a month ago, is a fitting pendant to the lingering death of the W. of W. at Rugeley. It is really the highest

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